

**Virtual
Question & Answer
Session**

October 21, 2025



Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program

Funding Opportunity – Year 2

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

***Now Accepting Applications through the
EEA Grant Management System!***

Deadline: November 21, 2025

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM



Increasing Drought Frequency:

Due to climate change, Massachusetts faces rising drought frequency, impacting water availability.



Program Goal:

Support projects that reduce water use, promote climate resiliency, and ensure enough water for essential uses.



Focus Areas:

Indoor and outdoor water use reduction, water loss control programs, drought management/planning

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- **Municipalities**
- **Public Water Suppliers**
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
- **Public Schools/Colleges/Universities**
- **Regional Planning Agencies**

*Collaboration between multiple
organizations encouraged!*



Examples of Project Types Eligible for Funding (including, but not limited to):

Water Loss Control

- Development and implementation of water loss control programs
- Leak detection and meter calibration

Water Conservation/Efficiency

- Development of water conservation plans
- Leak detection activities, incentive programs

Outdoor Water Use Efficiency

- Landscape transformation plans
- Irrigation system audits and upgrades

Drought Management Planning

- Local drought plan development
- Water use restriction programs



REFER TO RFR
FOR FULL DETAILS
ON PROJECT
TYPES

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Alignment with Program Goals

- Reducing indoor/outdoor water use
- Improving water loss control
- Drought planning

Project Impact

- Outline expected water savings, improvements in water loss control, and/or increased drought resiliency (preference given to those that deliver significant and measurable impacts)
- Additional consideration:
 - Regional-scale and collaborations
 - Long-term ability/commitment beyond deadline
 - Innovative approaches/sustainable practices
 - Serve as demonstration project (transferable)
 - Direct benefit to EJ populations

Cost, Budget, Feasibility and Readiness

- Justify costs including detailed budget/quotes
- Demonstrate ability to complete project by June 30, 2026

Overall Project Quality



AWARD INFORMATION

Target Award: up to \$50,000

Project Deadline: June 30, 2026

**(funded portions of projects must be completed by this
deadline to be eligible for reimbursement)**



COLLABORATIONS ENCOURAGED



Regional Scope Projects:

- Encourage collaboration among municipalities, water suppliers, and other organizations

Innovative Solutions:

- Regional projects and new technology approaches are welcome

ESTIMATED PROGRAM TIMELINE



Event	Date
Notice of Intent (NOI) posting on COMMBUYS	August 14, 2025
Request for Responses (RFR) posting on COMMBUYS	October 9, 2025
Virtual Question and Answer Session	October 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Official Answers for Bid Q&A published	November 7, 2025 (estimated)
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	November 21, 2025 at 5:00 PM
Application Review	November 24-December 5, 2025
Approval process	December 8-December 31, 2025
Notification of Apparent Successful Applicants	January 1-January 9, 2026
Contract Start Date	January 12-January 16, 2026
Deadline for Completion of Projects	June 30, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION AND NEXT STEPS

- Now accepting applications!
 - Details on Commbuys and the grant program promotional webpage: <https://www.mass.gov/eea-funding-opportunity-for-a-new-grant-program>
- Grant Management System
 - REQUIRED to use the online application form and upload tool

greenhub.mass.gov

- Contact
 - Purvi Patel purvi.patel@mass.gov
 - Jason Duff jason.duff@mass.gov



PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

What is the total available funding under this grant program?

\$500,000

Is there a match requirement from applicants?

No match is required.

Is the purchase of devices and equipment eligible for this grant opportunity?

Yes, equipment purchases are an allowable cost.

Is leasing leak detection equipment an allowable cost?

Yes, as long as the use of the leased equipment falls within the scope of the program. Additionally, we will not be able to reimburse for any lease payments that are due before or after the end of the contract period (June 30th, 2026).

Are there any requirements related to Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?

No, there are no MBE requirements for applicants.



PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

Do proposals need to be new or if an ongoing project fits the requirements, could you apply for funding?

The project does not need to be a new project to be eligible. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2026 are eligible for reimbursement..

Are extra rating points given for Environmental Justice communities?

Preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to EJ populations. Information on which communities are classified as EJ populations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>.

Can the project start before the award?

The project can start before the award. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2026 are eligible for reimbursement.

Is the closing date for application a hard date or soft?

The closing date for applications is a hard deadline of November 21st, 2025.

Are applicants allowed to apply for multiple projects?

Yes, applicants are allowed to apply for multiple awards under the program guidelines. However, the number of awards and availability of funding per project is dependent on the number of qualified applicants.





QUESTIONS?